IN THE CLAIMS

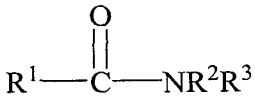
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising:

A) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 5 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,

b) 0 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β-ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



(I)

where

R^1 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- where R^4 = H or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R^2 or R^3 is different from H, or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R^2 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- and R^1 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R^1 and R^3 together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

c) 0 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

where the proportion by weight of the sum of components b) and c) is at least 5% by weight,

optionally, in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

d1) polyether-containing compounds,

d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,

d3) starch and starch derivatives,

and mixtures thereof; and

B) at least one cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein component b) comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of N-vinyllactams, N-vinylamides of saturated monocarboxylic acids, N-alkyl- and N,N-dialkylamides of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1 either of the preceding claims, wherein where component c) comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of esters of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids with aminoalcohols, their N-alkyl- and N,N-dialkyl derivatives; esters of vinyl alcohol with monocarboxylic acids; vinyl- and allyl-substituted heteroaromatic compounds; amides of

α,β-ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids with diamines which have a tertiary and a primary or secondary amino group; polyether acrylates; and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein component B) is selected from the group consisting of:

i) water,

ii) water-miscible organic solvents,

iii) oils, fats, waxes,

iv) esters of C_6-C_{30}-monocarboxylic acids with mono-, di- or trihydric alcohols different from iii),

v) saturated acyclic and cyclic hydrocarbons,

vi) fatty acids,

vii) fatty alcohols

and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one constituent different from copolymer A), which is selected from the group consisting of cosmetically active ingredients, emulsifiers, surfactants, preservatives, perfume oils, thickeners, hair polymers, hair and skin conditioners, graft polymers, water-soluble or dispersible silicone-containing polymers, light protection agents, bleaching agents, gel formers, care agents, colorants, tinting agents, tanning agents, dyes, pigments, consistency-imparting agents, humectants, refatting agents, collagen, protein hydrolysates, lipids, antioxidants, antifoams, antistats, emollients and softeners.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a gel, foam, spray, ointment, cream, emulsion, suspension, lotion, milk or paste.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled):

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim [[8]] 30, obtained by free-radical polymerization of:

a) 20 to 40% by weight of methacrylamide,

b) 40 to 70% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone,

in the presence of from 1 to 20% by weight of polymers d2) and/or starch and starch derivatives d3).

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled):

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 32 ~~12~~, obtained by free-radical polymerization of

a) 7 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,

b) 50 to 80% by weight of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylcaprolactam, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and mixtures thereof,

c) 0.3 to 10% by weight of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of vinylimidazole and derivatives thereof, polyether acrylates and mixtures thereof,

in the presence of 0.1 to 10% by weight of polymers d2) which are derived from vinyl alcohol.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 32 ~~12~~, obtained by free-radical polymerization of

a) 10 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,

b) 50 to 80% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and vinylcaprolactam and

c) 0.3 to 10% by weight of vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 32 ~~12~~, obtained by free-radical polymerization of

a) 10 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,

b) 50 to 80% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and

c) 0.5 to 5% by weight of vinylimidazole.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of copolymer A), as claimed in claim 7, by free-radical polymerization of the monomers a) with at least one further monomer chosen from the monomers b) and c), optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to b), of a water-soluble component d), wherein the polymerization is carried out in an aqueous solvent.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polymerization is carried out at a pH in the range from 6 to 8.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the polymerization is carried out at a pH in the range from 6.4 to 7.4.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is a skin-cleansing composition, a composition for the care and protection of the skin, a nail care composition, a preparation for decorative cosmetics, a hair-treatment composition or a coating composition.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the composition is a hair treatment composition.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the composition is in the form of a hair gel, shampoo, setting foam, hair tonic, hairspray or hair foam.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A method of coating a substrate, comprising applying the copolymer as claimed in claim 7 to a substrate.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is a graft base, a polymer emulsifier or a protective colloid.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the composition is a composition for a setting agent and/or a conditioner.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substrate comprises a solid medicament, a textile, paper, a printable source or leather.

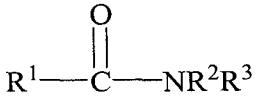
Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A method of making a pharmaceutical composition, comprising adding the copolymer, as claimed in claim 7, as an auxiliary, to one or more pharmaceutical components.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A method of making a composition, comprising contacting the copolymer A), as claimed in claim 7, with one or more additives.

Claims 28 (New): A copolymer A), obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 10 to 45% by weigh, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,

b) 60 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β-ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



(I)

where

R^1 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- where R^4 = H or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R^2 or R^3 is different from H, or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R^2 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- and R^1 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R^1 and R^3 together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

d1) polyether-containing compounds,

d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,

d3) starch and starch derivatives,

and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (New): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 28 obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 10 to 45% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of methacrylamide,

b) 60 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of vinylpyrrolidone and/or vinylcaprolactam,

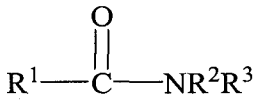
c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally, in the presence of up to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of polymers d2) and/or starch and starch derivatives d3).

Claim 30 (New): A copolymer A), obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 20 to 40% by weigh, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,

b) 40 to 70% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β-ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



$$R^1—C(=O)—NR^2R^3 \qquad (I)$$

where

R^1 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- where R^4 = H or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R^2 or R^3 is different from H, or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R^2 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- and R^1 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R^1 and R^3 together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

d1) polyether-containing compounds,

d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,

d3) starch and starch derivatives,

and mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (New): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 30, obtained by free-radical polymerization of

a) 20 to 40% by weight of methacrylamide,

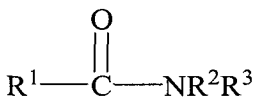
b) 40 to 70% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and

c) 1 to 20% by weight of at least one water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith.

Claim 32 (New): A copolymer A), obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 5 to 50% by weigh, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,

b) 40 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β-ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



(I)

where

R^1 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- where R^4 = H or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R^2 or R^3 is different from H, or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R^2 is a group of the formula $CH_2=CR^4$- and R^1 and R^3, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R^1 and R^3 together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

d1) polyether-containing compounds,

d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,

d3) starch and starch derivatives,

and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (New): The copolymer A) as claimed in claim 32, obtained by free-radical copolymerization of

a) 5 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of methacrylamide,

b) 40 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylcaprolactam, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and mixtures thereof,

c) 0.2 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith, which is selected from the group consisting of vinylimidazole and derivatives thereof, polyether acrylates and mixtures thereof,

optionally in the presence of up to 10% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of polymers d2), which are derived from vinyl alcohol, and optionally in the presence of up to 1% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one crosslinker.

Claim 34 (New): A copolymer A), obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

a) 30 to 40% by weigh, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of methacrylamide,

b) 20 to 60% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of vinylpyrrolidone and 1 to 20% by weight of vinylcaprolactam,

c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

d1) polyether-containing compounds,

d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,

d3) starch and starch derivatives,

and mixtures thereof.